

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, performed between at least one ~~or more~~ facility sites that has ~~have thermal equipment and/or water treatment equipment~~ and conclude a servicing and maintenance contract regarding the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment equipment~~, and a management center that performs servicing and maintenance of the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment equipment~~ in the a corresponding facility site and has a database for storing various information on the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment equipment~~, through use of a communication line, comprising the steps of:


monitoring the equipment with an information retrieval unit installed in the facility site to collect operating state information regarding the equipment;

reading requested information for the equipment when a request to provide each of the various information for the equipment is transmitted from the an information retrieval unit installed in the facility site to a control unit installed in the management center through the communication line; and

transmitting the requested information read from the database to the information retrieval unit through the communication line.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, established between

at least one or more facility sites that has ~~have thermal equipment and/or water treatment equipment~~ and that conclude a servicing and maintenance contract regarding the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment~~ equipment, and a management center that performs servicing and maintenance of the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment~~ equipment in the corresponding facility site, comprising

 a communication line for connecting the facility site and the management center,

the management center having a database for storing various information on the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment~~ equipment and a control unit for reading requested information from the a database in response to a request of the facility site to provide the various information on the ~~thermal equipment and/or water treatment~~ equipment, and transmitting the requested information read from the database to the facility site through the communication line,

the facility site having an information retrieval unit that is capable of monitoring the equipment to collect operating state information regarding the equipment, requesting the control unit to provide the various information through the communication line, receiving the requested information transmitted from the control unit through the communication line, and confirming contents thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like as defined in Claim 2, wherein

the information retrieval unit is disposed in the ~~thermal device and/or water treatment device~~ equipment, or in the vicinity thereof.

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Claim 4 (New) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the equipment comprises thermal equipment.

Claim 5 (New) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the equipment comprises water treatment equipment.

Claim 6 (New) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising outputting the requested information at the facility site.

Claim 7 (New) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising determining the various information is to be requested for the equipment in response to the collected operating state information.

Claim 8 (New) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the equipment comprises thermal equipment.

Claim 9 (New) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the equipment comprises water treatment equipment.

13 Claim 10 (New) A method for servicing and maintaining equipment at a facility site, wherein the facility site is linked to a management center to perform service and maintenance to the facility site, comprising the steps of:

monitoring the equipment at the facility site to control an operating state with an information retrieval unit at the facility site;

detecting an abnormality in the operating state of the equipment;

transmitting a request for information from the information retrieval unit to a control unit located at the management center in response to the abnormality;

receiving various information read from a database coupled to the control unit pertaining to the equipment at the information retrieval unit; and

providing the various information for service and maintenance at the facility site.

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Claim 11 (New) The method servicing and maintaining equipment at a facility site, as claimed in claim 10, wherein the detecting includes receiving a signal at the information retrieval unit regarding the abnormality.
